



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DIVISION, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

P.O. BOX 80

VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39181-0080

<http://www.mvd.usace.army.mil/>

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

November 25, 2003

NOTICE OF FINAL GENERAL REEVALUATION REPORT AND INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT EAST ST. LOUIS AND VICINITY, ILLINOIS, ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION AND FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION PROJECT

The District Engineer of the St. Louis District has prepared a Final General Reevaluation Report with Integrated Environmental Impact Statement on providing ecosystem restoration and incidental flood damage reduction for East St. Louis, Illinois, and vicinity. The report was prepared under authority of the Section 204 of the Flood Control Act of 1965, as modified by the Section 137 of the Flood Control Act of 1976, and Section 310 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000.

The District Engineer recommends the establishment of eight habitat areas in the floodplain, affecting a total of approximately 4,900 acres and 178 miles of tributary streams. The recommended plan will create or restore 1,705 acres of bottomland forest habitat, 1,111 acres of prairie habitat, 843 acres of marsh and shrub swamp habitat, 460 acres of lake habitat, and 379 acres of upland riparian forest. In addition, the recommended plan also includes restoration of 10.4 miles of floodplain stream, installation of 651 wood duck boxes and 870 prairie bird perches, improvement of 20 acres of over wintering and shoreline habitat, construction of 131 tributary sediment detention basins and riffle and pool complexes along 178 miles of streams, 15.5 miles of earthen embankments and associated water control features (i.e., culverts, flap gates, and new channels), and a recreation feature at the Old Cahokia Creek area. The total estimated cost of the recommended plan, including PED, at October 2003 price levels is \$193,266,000, of which \$124,584,270 would be the Federal cost. The estimated average annual ecosystem restoration benefits are 8,332 Average Annual Habitat Units (AAHUs). I concur in the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the District Engineer.

The recommendations contained herein reflect the information available at this time and current departmental policies governing formulation of individual projects. They do not reflect program and budgeting priorities inherent in the formulation of a national Civil Works construction program nor the perspective of higher review levels within the Executive Branch. Consequently, the recommendations may be modified before they are transmitted to the Congress as proposals for implementation funding. However, prior to transmittal to the Congress, the sponsor, the State of Illinois, interested Federal agencies, and other parties will be advised of any modifications and will be afforded an opportunity to comment further.

The report is being forwarded for policy review prior to action by the Headquarters, United States Army Corps of Engineers, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. Interested parties may present written views on the report. However, statements submitted should not repeat material previously presented at public meetings conducted by the St. Louis District or contained in this report, as this information is already available. Information submitted should be new and specific in nature and bear directly on the findings of the report.

Written communications should be mailed to the Deputy Commanding General for Civil Works, ATTN: CECW-P, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 441 G Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20314, in time to be received by January 10, 2004. If an extension of this date is considered necessary, a written request stating the reasons and additional time desired should be mailed to the address above soon after receipt of this notice.

The Corps of Engineers will not take action on the report until expiration of this notice or any extension thereof. Full consideration will be given to all information submitted. Further information concerning the study or report may be obtained from the District Engineer, U.S. Army Engineer District, St. Louis, ATTN: CEMVS-PM-F, 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103.

The final report is available for review at: (1) the Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District Office, 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri; (2) the East St. Louis Public Library, 5300 State Street, East St. Louis, Illinois; (3) the Collinsville Memorial Public Library, 408 West Main, Collinsville, Illinois; and (4) the Belleville Public Library, 121 East Washington, Belleville, Illinois. It is also available on the World Wide Web at

<http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/pm/Estlecorest/estleco.htm>.

Additionally, an electronic copy of the report on CD may be requested at no charge or a printed copy of the report may be purchased for the cost of reproduction.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don T. Riley", is positioned above the printed name.

DON T. RILEY

Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Division Engineer